

lier age; make a steel rail quicker, construct a mammoth building and grow rich quicker than did our fathers, or even our fathers across the water.

The yankee life has become so strenuous that our popular Vice President has felt constrained to write a book called, "The Strenuous Life." The title of this volume suggested to my mind the subject for this correspondence. I am sorry I never had an opportunity to read the work. Beyond the title, I can not consistently be suspected for plagiarism.

The political and commercial world is now very active, especially the latter. Commercialism has never been so strenuous as today. It never grew as it is now growing. The church life is not as strenuous. What a difference between the world of traffic and world of religion. The strenuous element is almost missing in the church. Business first, religion last.

The first thing for us to decide is, what is God's will toward me? What does he want me to do? What are the first things God speaks about? Is it to secure a farm or earthly possessions, or is it to carry the Father's message to the unsaved? Which? We can be about our several occupations and yet be about our Father's work. Paul was preaching and teaching effectively the Word of God and making tents. I think Paul carried the teachings and ethics of Jesus into his business. Whatever we may be called upon to do, let us carry with us the spirit of our Master. We would in very many instances get into more trouble, antagonize more persons and cause our lives to become more strenuous. Still that is what Jesus did. On the other hand, if we constantly and vigorously carried the instructions of Jesus with us we would be more truthful, less vindictive, more righteous, and in every way possess more the nature and character of Jesus, whom we are trying to follow and become like unto.

Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me *while it is day: the night cometh* when no man can work." Do we feel that saying to be true in regard to the making of disciples in all the world? Is it the making of disciples that gives you energy and enthusiasm, and causes your life to be a strenuous life? Do you feel that you have been sent of God to do some little thing, at least, for him? Do you feel deep down in your consciousness that you have a God-given something to do? Do you realize the facts in the case, that you must do this work, however small, however apparently insignificant, *now*. While it is day. There is a night coming. This is certain. Revelation and history and human experience testify to the fact. Are you straining every nerve and muscle to their utmost capacity and strength to do what the Master bids you?

Jesus said unto the one seeking the pearl of great price,—everlasting life,—"Love the Lord thy God with *all* thy heart, with all thy mind, with all thy soul and with all thy

strength." Here is the gist of the whole matter. Here is a strenuous command. Here is the motto that can and will give each life success. If our lives are to be strenuous, let them be *strenuous* in the Lord's service, in right-doing, in carrying the Master's message to the unsaved, in living a life conformable to Christ's life.

Lanark, Ill.

#### PASTORAL VISITING

J. L. GILLIN

The modern pastor must be a man of many accomplishments. He must be versatile. He must prepare two sermons each week, which must have spiritual meat in them, suited to the needs of the congregation to whom he ministers, which must be intellectually spicy enough to compete successfully with magazine and book writers, who have weeks and often months of undisturbed labor in which to finish their production, which the preacher must prepare in half a week.

He must study the needs of his people and suit his ministrations to their needs. He must bury the dead, marry the lovers, attend the socials, see that the committees do their work, look after the Sister's Society in a general way, help the young people in their plans for weekly prayer meeting, and see that the weekly prayer meeting is led entertainingly and profitably.

He must see that the calls for missionary offerings are heeded, take up collections for the poor and sick, keep general oversight of the Sunday school, be the peacemaker between enemies in the church and out, visit the sick, warn the erring, plead with the careless, canvass for the church paper or see that it is done, notice everyone he meets with a smile, listen to the tales of woe which all the tramps and beggars pour into his ears, be the mark at which scoffers throw the mud of scandal and the stories about the hypocrisy of his members, be always cheerful, never scold in the pulpit nor upbraid out of it.

He must call upon every member in the church several times every year to see how they are doing spiritually, visit those of whom there may be a sign of conversion. And last and not least he must look after the payment of his salary, see that his own household duties are performed and then hear with cheerfulness and resignation, that his members and his acquaintances wonder what he does to spend his time.

Truly one may be allowed to ask, "And who is sufficient for these things?" And one must find comfort,—real comfort,—in answering, "But our sufficiency is of God." The wonder is not that some of our preachers get tired out and quit, but that some of them don't get mad, turn loose and storm the battery of indifference, neglect and popular calumny, and thus disgrace their cloth and cause a long suffering public to hold up its hand in holy horror at "the way that preacher talked."

In my short life (pardon the personal allusion) I have been a farmer boy working under the strenuous conditions of the hurrying West, a student in college with extra studies under some tyrannous teachers, and an agent in Omaha during the hard times of '93 when a bank or two broke every week and thousands of men were being laid off the shops and railroads, and a teacher in our public schools, and I must confess that, in six years as a pastor of what is generally considered an easy church, I have found nothing in the aforementioned callings equal to the ministry as a nerve-racking, brain-tiring business. *And yet I like it.* This all goes to show that the pastorate is no sinecure. And those who think otherwise simply advertise their ignorance when they say so.

But of all these things he must do, none is more needful than the pastoral (not *pastorial*) visiting. I care not how fine the sermon may be, the people will tire of it and stay away unless the pastor sees them in their homes, learns their needs by talking with them, and becomes really helpful by sympathizing with them in their hopes and failures and perplexities. "Jesus went *about* doing good" and I believe his contact daily with the people is in large part the explanation, not only of the crowds that followed him, but also of his finding and choosing such great souls to be his apostles.

#### SISTER CARRIE NATION

JOHN DUKE M'FADEN

There has been much said about this woman. There is hardly a paper in the country but has said something about her one way or the other, mostly against her. She has been much misrepresented. Her words have been twisted and turned in most every direction, her pictures are most unlike her, and many of the articles in our church papers are based on these unfair and prejudiced reports. Most of the papers in states outside of Kansas have been harsh in their judgments. They overlook the fact that her work was in Kansas, that the laws of Kansas are not in force in other states, and her work was needed in Kansas. There were saloons there, the laws of the state were being violated, the matter had gone into politics, and cowardly politicians did nothing to shut up the joints and saloons. Those interested in the cause of temperance and righteousness seemed paralyzed as far as practical work was concerned; even the big lawyers who were anxious to help enforce the law seemed to forget that a saloon could be smashed and the saloon-keeper have no recourse.

A Prohibition law was passed in Kansas some twenty-one years ago, but it was not perfect. The Murry law was passed to perfect the amendment, but it needed fixing. The last legislature put four more laws on the statute book: "The state search and seizure bill; the county attorney inquisition bill; the bill giving a district judge the right to punish for contempt without trial by jury;